

## Our Country is Safer Because of YOU

You were called and you went, and your country is all the safer for your going. Because of your efforts, we are winning this global war on terrorism. As America's veterans of many wars and much combat, we are very proud of you and stand ready to support you in any way we can. Our Chapters will welcome you home and into their care.

You will make a transition from the military status. Your new veteran status will give you access to many benefits and entitlements. Our National Service Program (NSP) and its **National Service Officers (NSOs)** will provide you with:

- Counseling on your benefits from a variety of government sources
- Help with filing claims for disability
- Assistance with entering the VA health care system

Yes, we are here to help you, and our services cost you **nothing**. Don't try to go it alone. Let us help you and guide you. After all, we have been there too.

## Help with Military Transition

If you are leaving military service, only a **Transition Service Officer (TSO)** from the Disabled American Veterans (**DAV**) is allowed to help you **during** the transition and represent you with a signed Power of Attorney (**POA**). National Service Officers from all Veterans Service Organizations are not allowed to assist you until **after** you are discharged. ALL Service Officer support is **free**. We, who meet you, are not professionals, but we can refer you to professional help when needed.

**Welcome Home and  
THANK YOU for Your SERVICE**

## Government Job Preferences

A 30% or higher VA disability rating, or a Purple Heart Medal, qualifies you for a **lifetime** 10-point government job preference for many federal and state agency jobs. For federal jobs, you use the Standard Form (**SF**) **15** with your application to provide proof of disability or a Purple Heart Medal award.

Veterans with less than a 30% disability rating have a **lifetime** 5-point government job preference. Written proof of service is required with your job application. **State** government employment preferences for veterans are at: <http://www.vfwdc.org/Employment/guide.htm>

## Assistance with Appeals of VA Claims Decisions

You have the right to appeal a VA decision on you claim for benefits within one year from the date on your VA notification. You may represent yourself or have an NSO, other approved agent, or attorney represent you. NSO representation is free. Attorney's fee may be up to 20% of your disputed claim's value. Other approved agents may represent you for free or for a fee. For further information, please see:  
[http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=109\\_cong\\_public\\_laws&docid=f:publ461.109](http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=109_cong_public_laws&docid=f:publ461.109)

## E-mail or call for help or questions

### Greater Washington Chapter 353

Tel/fax: (703) 998-8744  
Cell: (571) 332-5316 and 10  
E-mail: [SCobb177@aol.com](mailto:SCobb177@aol.com) and  
[TCobb144@aol.com](mailto:TCobb144@aol.com)  
Website: [www.purpleheart353.com](http://www.purpleheart353.com)

We appreciate your tax-deductible donations.  
All information is current as of Winter 2008-2009.

# Welcome Home from the Global War on Terrorism



## The Military Order of the *Purple Heart*

**Greater Washington Chapter 353  
and  
Department of Virginia**



**Thank You**  
from **ALL** Grateful Americans

## Some Initial and Practical Advice

- 1- Keep good copies of **ALL** your medical records, especially from the date of your first injury or wound in combat. You have a right to these medical records, and, in fact, you should keep your own Medical 201 file. These records will be very important for you in pursuing any claim with the VA.
- 2- Know that most large military hospitals or medical facilities will have a person assigned from the VA to help returning Iraq and Afghanistan veterans. That person, who is known as the **Iraq and Afghanistan Liaison Officer** or **LNO**, can help you with most problems or encounters with red tape. Only small community medical facilities with less than 50 recently returned troops may not have such a LNO on hand.
- 3- You can help resolve any dispute with your unit about the facts of your wound or injury by sending an e-mail inquiry to your unit, regardless of where it is located. We can help with senior officer follow up assistance if needed.

## Special License Plates

All states have military, veterans, and Purple Heart license plates. Many states have plates for combat veterans and some military awards. The **Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV)** in your state may require a copy of your orders or other proof of military service and award.



## New Post 9/11 GI Bill Summary



These provisions are all effective on August 1, 2009. For 36 months of active service on or after 11 Sep 2001, or for 30 days service and a service connected disability discharge, you are eligible for 36 months tuition & assistance for up to 15 years after retirement or an honorable discharge. Lesser benefits are available for shorter periods of service. After 10 years of active duty service, a person may transfer tuition to a spouse or dependent child.

For more information and details:

1-888-442-4551 (7 AM – 5 PM Central Time)  
[www.gibill.va.gov](http://www.gibill.va.gov)  
[www.gibill2008.org](http://www.gibill2008.org)  
<http://education.military.com>

Contact your service branch for the latest information and details.

## Other Educational Assistance

Many schools offer military and veterans tuition rates. A Purple Heart Medal qualifies you for free tuition at many universities and colleges, on a **state-by-state** and **school-by-school** basis. Some military and veterans groups offer scholarships and grants to military service members, veterans, and their families. Purple Heart recipients, their wives, children, and grandchildren are eligible for scholarships from the MOPH Service Foundation. Many states provide tuition assistance or waivers to military service members, veterans, and their families. Check with your state and school of interest on an individual basis, and **ask** about available assistance programs. Free information about military and veteran friendly schools is at <http://aid.military.com/scholarship/search-for-scholarships.do>

**National Suicide Prevention Lifeline (Hotline)**  
Toll Free 24/7/365  
1-800-273-8255 (TALK)  
Veterans, please press 1  
Family members, please listen for options

## Veterans Service Organizations (VSOs)

### **American Legion**

(202) 861-2700 • [www.legion.org](http://www.legion.org)

### **Disabled American Veterans (DAV)**

(202) 554-3501 • [www.dav.org](http://www.dav.org)

### **Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America**

(212) 982-9699 • [www.iava.org](http://www.iava.org) • [info@iava.org](mailto:info@iava.org)

### **Military Order of the Purple Heart (MOPH)**

(703) 354-2140 • [www.purpleheart.org](http://www.purpleheart.org)

### **Disabled Veterans Business Training Center**

(703) 340-8763 • [www.purpleheartfoundation.org](http://www.purpleheartfoundation.org)

### **Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)**

1-800-VFW-1899 (839-1899) • [vfw@vfwdc.org](mailto:vfw@vfwdc.org)  
[www.vfw.org](http://www.vfw.org) • [www.vfwdc.org](http://www.vfwdc.org)

**NOTE:** Some VSOs may require membership or give service priority to their members. **MOPH provides free service to ALL veterans. Membership is NOT required.**

## Military and VA

### **Military OneSource**

1-800-342-9647 • [www.militaryonesource.com](http://www.militaryonesource.com)

### **Career Center – Combat Wounded Disabled Vets**

1-888-774-1361 • <http://military.com/support>

### **DOD Mental Health Self-Assessment Program**

<https://www.militarymentalhealth.org/test>

### **Wounded Soldier and Family Hotline**

1-800-984-8523 • 312-328-0002 (overseas)

### **Marine for Life Program**

1-866-645-8762 (8 AM – 5 PM Eastern Time)  
[www.m4l.usmc.mil](http://www.m4l.usmc.mil)

### **VA Seamless Transition Office**

1-800-827-1000 • [www.seamlesstransition.va.gov](http://www.seamlesstransition.va.gov)